

**Fairfax County Citizen Corps Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, May 29, 2014**  
**7:00 – 8:40 pm**

The May 29, 2014 meeting of the Fairfax County Citizen Corps Council was held at the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center in Room 2104/2106. Secretary Matt Lyttle acted as Chairperson as Karrie Delany was unable to attend the meeting to do illness. The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 pm with 20 individuals present including members, guests and staff. Insufficient voting members were present to meet the quorum so no official business was conducted however information sharing did occur. The initial introductions were completed and a listing of attendees is included with the minutes.

Guest speaker for the meeting was Tehani Munday of the Fairfax County Health Department who provided information on the Community Health and Preparedness Champions Project. The Champions Project is designed to educate and motivate individuals in the community in an effort to stop the spread of germs, get a flu vaccine and be prepared for emergencies through planning and making an emergency kit. The Champions receive four hours of training on the topics and are expected to conduct their first outreach session, which could last from 60 to 90 minutes, within 60 days of their training. Volunteers who wish to become Champions need to be motivated and responsible, have a solid link within their community, and having some previous training experience is helpful. The presentations which the Champions provide are tailored for seasonal health and preparedness issues and subjects. The videos used as part of the presentations are available in 5 different languages.

Currently, there are 16 to 18 Champions for general community outreach plus another 16 Champions who are part of the Medical Reserve Corps.

At the conclusion of his presentation, a question and answer period was conducted after which the Council expressed their thanks to Ms. Munday for her time and presentation.

**Council Business:**

Acting Chairperson Lyttle then began the information sharing portion of the Council meeting.

**Committee Reports**

Outreach: Whitney Kazragis, Community Outreach Liaison for the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) provided an overview of the new alerting system which Fairfax County will be transitioning to over the next couple of months. The new system has a number of improvements and enhanced features over the existing Community Emergency Response Network (CEAN). Individuals with accounts on CEAN will be transferred over to the new Fairfax Alerts but will be requested to verify their information as well as select from a number of different options which the new system has available. Fairfax Alert goes live on July 3, 2014.

Ms. Kazragis would like the Citizen Corps Council to consider using the Fairfax Alert as the initial topic for a series of outreach subjects over the 12 months.

Grants: Whitney Kazragis of OEM reported that the grant funding projects for FY 2012 have been closed and that those organizations who have been allocated funds should now be working on FY 2013 monies. Due to a personnel change, Diane Hansen of OEM is currently the point-of-contact for any questions regarding grants and grant funding. Diane can be reached through the main number at 571-350-1000.

Membership: Jim Kirkpatrick was not able to attend the meeting.

### **Supervisor Appointees**

At-Large: Andrew Levy inquired about the various organization representatives and wanted to be sure that all members of the Citizen Corps Council were receiving information pertaining to the Freedom of Information Act requirements. OEM staff will be following up with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors on the matter as there are a number of new appointees from both the Board of Supervisors as well as participating organizations.

Braddock District: Bob Mizer announced to the group that this would be his last meeting and that a replacement would soon be named by Supervisor Cook. Bob has been involved with CERT for 12 years as well as other volunteer programs within the County.

Dranesville District: Wes Callender had nothing new to share.

Mason District: Dr. Sneiderman reported attending the Senior Safety Summit that Supervisor Gross conducted on May 12, 2014 at the Mason District Government Center. The program had representatives from the Office of the Sheriff, Fire and Rescue Department, Office of Emergency Management and Consumer Affairs who all provided topics to assist seniors in improving their safety and daily life. Fire and Rescue covered fire safety, injury prevention and the File for Life program. The Sheriff's representative spoke about Project Lifesaver. Consumer Affairs addressed scams and fraud. The Police Department provided tips on home and personal safety. And the Emergency Management provided information on preparedness. It was estimated that 100 people attended the event and, given the initial attendance, another session may occur at a later date. There was such positive feedback from the event that it may be used by other Board of Supervisor members in their districts as well.

### **Core Program Updates**

CERT: Jim Sobecke reported that the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is conducting a number of training sessions for new CERT members as well as specialized training for individuals who've already been through the initial course. An All Hands meeting was conducted with approximately 100 individuals attending. The meeting provided some historical background of the Fairfax County CERT program, recognized individuals who have been

essential to the continuation of the program and took a look at future activities. There is the possibility of a follow-up session being conducted for those who weren't able to attend this session. There is also a move to generate neighborhood teams and individual CERT members are working within their own districts to organize other CERT members that may live nearby.

Fire Corps: Not present

Medical Reserve Corps: Samantha Brann of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) reported that they have been busy with the recent measles event and utilized MRC volunteers in the Health Department call center where over 400 hours of service were provided.

Neighborhood Watch: Frank Vajda, Neighborhood Watch representative, reported that National Night Out for this year is scheduled for Tuesday, August 5 and it could be an opportunity to use some of the aspects of the Ready-Set-Know Festival in preparation for that event. Frank also would like to be able to provide information on the new Fairfax Alert system as part of the National Night Out activities.

Volunteers in Police Service: Not present

### **Affiliated Organizations**

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations: John Cockayne added to the positive reports from Supervisor Gross's Senior Safety Seminar. He added that a number of the civic associations have been pushing for sessions of this nature as more seniors are opting to stay in their own homes. He is hopeful that more sessions will be conducted in the future.

FCIA: Tom Lambiase of Faith Communities In Action (FCIA) will be engaging a variety of activities during the next several weeks and months so interested parties should contact him to participate.

Volunteer Fairfax: Tracey Friend reported that Volunteer Fairfax is organizing two volunteer reception centers so they are seeking teams who are available to receive training and to operate the centers. Tracy also reported that USAID is seeking volunteers to staff telephone lines during an international disaster. These individuals would assist in people trying to contact family members who might be affected by the disaster. Volunteer Fairfax is also partnering with the Fairfax County Public Schools PTA organization for future activities as well.

### **Other Reports**

OEM: David McKernan, Coordinator for OEM, reported that training exercises have been conducted on Metro's Silver Line in preparation for service to begin. The current exercises are law enforcement oriented but fire and rescue personnel are also being included in the training.

Dean Sherick, OEM staff support for the Council, reported the following:

- OEM, with the assistance of Volunteer Fairfax, 13 volunteers from Ameri Corps conducted a neighborhood canvassing in the Mount Vernon area and were able to visit over 300 residences to share information on emergency preparedness.
- He also advised the group that Jim Kirkpatrick had been the recipient of an award at the annual Volunteer Fairfax recognition breakfast held in April.
- There was a recent article in the local Connection newspapers on CERT which was very positive.
- Council members were invited to submit articles from their organizations that could be included in the OEM monthly newsletter.
- There are still two days left for the tax free purchase of items which can be used for emergency preparedness.

Matt Lyttle reminded the attendees that hurricane season begins June 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### Other Council Business

Jim Sobecke, CERT representative, provided an update on the Ready-Set-Know Festival that is planned for September. Jim reported the following:

- The event will be partnered with the Burke Center Fall Festival which occurs on September 6-7 and has around 12,000 people attend.
- There be an informational side of the proposed activity as well as a “Disaster Zone” that will be more inter-active for those who visit the display area.
- There is a need for volunteers to participate as the display area will need to be staffed on Saturday from 9:30 am – 5:00 pm and Sunday from 11:00 am through 5:00 pm. Individuals from the Council are encouraged to become involved as there are many different roles and responsibilities that people could be assisting with.
- The next planning meeting is June 16<sup>th</sup> at the MPSTOC from 6:00 – 8:00 pm.

There was discussion and encouragement to have individuals set forward to fill one of the three elected positions of the Citizen Corps Council. The nomination and election of officers is scheduled for the July meeting and includes the chairperson, vice-chairperson and secretary.

Possible topics for the next meeting include the File of Life program, National Night Out, Fairfax Alerts, the Ready – Set – Know Festival and Freedom of Information Act requirements.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

**The next meeting will be Thursday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 pm at the Government Center in Room 9/10.**

# Fairfax County Citizen Corps Council

## General Meeting – Sign In

### May 29, 2014

Name	Organization Represented	Present
Bornmann, Al	Mount Vernon District	
Brann, Samantha	Medical Reserve Corps	X
Callender, Wes	Dranesville District	X
Cantagallo, Mike	American Red Cross	
Cockayne, John	Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations	X
Delaney, Karrie	Sully District	
Ewing, Lawrence	United Way	
Field, Timothy	Neighborhood Watch	X
Friend, Tracy	Volunteer Fairfax	X
Galliere, Susan	Virginia Alliance of Family Childcare	
Glickstein, Steve	Amateur Radio Emergency Services	
Grapin, Mark	Boy Scouts of America	
Hale, Judith	Salvation Army	
Heppner, Cheryl	Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf & Hard of Hearing	
Katz, Jeffrey	Community Emergency Response Team & Fire Corps	
Kazragis, Whitney	Office of Emergency Management	X
Kirkpatrick, Jim	Springfield District	
Krause, James	Volunteers in Police Service	
Lambiase, Tom	Faith Communities In Action	X
Levy, Andrew	At-Large	X
Lyttle, Matt	NoVa Regional Voluntary Organizations Active In Disaster	X
Mizer, Bob	Braddock District	X
Mufti, Adeel	Hunter Mill District	
Nieman, Charlene	CrisisLink	
O'Leary, Bonnie	Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf & Hard of Hearing	
Olds, Bowman	Fairfax Joint Local Emergency Planning Committee	
Potter, Alan	Providence District	
Powers, Dana	Community Emergency Response Team & Fire Corps	
Sanders, Jeanne	Volunteer Fairfax	
Serle, Tracey	Medical Reserve Corps	X
Sherick, Dean	Office of Emergency Management	X
Sneiderman, Charles	Mason District	X
Sobecke, James	Community Emergency Response Team	X
Vacant	Lee District	
Vajda, Frank	Neighborhood Watch	X
Wheeler, Jennifer	Volunteers In Police Service	

	<b>ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES</b>	
Markovich, David	Visitor – Boy Scout Merit Badge	X
Markovich, John	Visitor – Boy Scout Merit Badge	X
McKernan, David	Office of Emergency Management	X
Moon, Mary	CERT – ARES	X
Mundy, Tehani	Health Department	X

Submitted by Dean Sherick on behalf of Matt Lyttle.